

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2016**

**Enabling the County to Explore New Business Intelligence Platforms**

In May 2004, the Chief Information Officer (CIO) in coordination with five Los Angeles County (County) departments selected Cognos as an enterprise Business Intelligence (BI) software solution for the County and utilized Cognos' consulting services to develop the Countywide BI requirements. On May 10, 2005, the County's Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the CIO's recommendation to adopt the Cognos BI platform (Cognos) as the County's standard for business intelligence and ad-hoc reporting software. BI is a term used to describe the process of analyzing an organization's raw data. The County uses BI to assist departments in tracking its performance count measurements as specified in the County's Strategic Plan, facilitate decision making, and aid in the identification of business improvement opportunities.

Gartner Inc. (Gartner), a research and advisory firm, periodically conducts market research to evaluate BI solutions and publishes its findings in its Magic Quadrant report. Throughout the past decade, Gartner has reported a major shift of BI uses from a

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previous static measurement to a more dynamic analysis that uses interactive visualization, predictive analytics, dashboards, online analytical processing, mobile device access, collaboration, and social integration.

Since the Board's adoption of the Cognos standard, Gartner has reported in its Magic Quadrant report that organizations have more options for procuring and delivering BI. These options include Platform as a Service and open-source software, in addition to traditional on-premise BI deployments. Gartner reported that in 2015, 42% of BI implementation was cloud-based and another 28% of the on-premise BI users are planning to deploy their BI in some form of public or hybrid cloud solution.

In the past decade, Gartner has also consistently identified and categorized several vendors as leaders in its Magic Quadrant report including Tableau, Qlik, Microsoft, MicroStrategy, IBM, Oracle, SAS, SAP and various others. Gartner's Magic Quadrant leaders list changes every year based on the performance of vendors' BI offerings. With such a wide range of options in the marketplace, it is unnecessary for the County to limit itself to a single proprietary solution or brand. The County should assess the feasibility of adopting new technologies while considering existing product investments and evolution and continuously explore and evaluate new BI platforms. Such an assessment would allow the County to determine which BI platform provides the best functional capabilities to support the County's objectives and requirements.

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Furthermore, the existence of several viable BI platforms and technologies in the product market would enable the County to purchase the most efficient and cost-effective BI platform through open and competitive solicitations.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

- 1) Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to sunset the Business Intelligence software standard approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 10, 2005 that required the use of the Cognos solution as the standard for Los Angeles County (County).
- 2) Direct the CEO to encourage County departments to utilize Business Intelligence dynamic analysis tools such as interactive visualization, predictive analytics, dashboards, online analytical processing, and other evolving Business Intelligence tools to better understand the County's business needs and to improve its decision making and service implementation processes.

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(MA/DJ)